

**REMARKS**

It is respectfully requested that the amendments made by this paper be entered into the record inasmuch as the amendments place the claims in better form for appeal without raising any new substantive issues for consideration. Amendments, such as this one, which are entered after a Notice of Appeal and prior to the submission of the Appeal Brief, are statutorily permissible according to C.F.R. §41.33(a) and §1.116(b)(2).

It will be noted that the only claims being amended by this paper are independent claims 1 and 21. It will also be noted that the amendments made by this paper merely correct grammatical informalities in claims 1 and 21, while at the same time improving the consistency between the claim language recited in claim 21 and the claim language recited in claim 1.

These amendments were generally discussed with the Examiner on November 20, 2006, at which time the Examiner indicated that the amendments should be formally entered through an amendment, such as this, rather than through a telephonically authorized Examiner's Amendment.

In the event that the Examiner has any questions about this amendment that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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